Observation of Wild Life Week

1082. SHR1MATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Wild Life Week was observed recently;

(b) if so, what programmes and schemes were launched and projects rhdertaken in connection therewith; and

(c) whether a census of wild life population was made in relation thereto, if so, the details and reserve-wise population of different wild life species; especially the endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINTS-TRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Madam. The wildlife week was observed from 2nd October, 1994.

(b) The State Govts. organised suitable programmes at various Centres & institutions in collaboration with the Stale Education, Tribal & Wildlife Departments & Non-Governmental organisations interested in thi$_s$ field, and nature camps and group visits by school children to nearby national parks/sanctuaries were al^o arranged. National Zoological Park, Delhi also organised the programme at Delhi on behalf of this Ministry.

(c) Census of major species of wild animals are conducted periodically by the States and not specifically during the wildlife week. The reserve-wise po-pula'ion of wild animals are not compiled and collated in the Ministry. However, the population of some of the major species jn the country are given below:—

Name of the Species	Year	Population
1. Tiger	1993	3750
2. Leopard	1993	6828
3. Elephant	1993	25000—27000
4. Indian Lion	1990	284
5. Rhinoceros	1993	1976

Predicament of Tigers as an endangered specices

1083. SHRLMATI VHINA VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article captioned "Doomed" in the Sunday Magazine of Hindus'an Times, New Delhi of Oct. 9, 1994, relating the predicament of the Tiger a$_s$ an endangered '•pedes is facing; and

(b) if so. what are the steps taken and being taken by Government to protec; and promote the tiger, especially the Royal Asian Tiger and other endangered species.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): ta) Yes, Sir.

tb) The important steps taken by the Government to protect & promote the tiger and other endangered species are as under:—

(i) A Tiger Crisis Cell has been $_s$et up in the Ministry.